



For Release: Friday, May 12, 2017

17-575-BOS

NEW ENGLAND INFORMATION OFFICE: Boston, Mass.

Technical information: (617) 565-2327 BLSInfoBoston@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/new-england

Media contact: (617) 565-2326 BLSMediaBoston@bls.gov

County Employment And Wages In Maine — Third Quarter 2016

Maine's only large county, Cumberland, reported an employment gain of 1.4 percent from September 2015 to September 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with 2015 annual average employment of 75,000 or more.) Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that Cumberland's employment gain ranked 203rd among the 344 large U.S. counties.

Nationwide, employment increased in 307 of the 344 largest U.S. counties. The largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment was recorded in York, S.C. (6.0 percent); Midland, Texas, experienced the largest over-the-year decrease (-5.8 percent).

Employment in Cumberland County stood at 180,400 in September 2016 and accounted for 29.3 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 344 largest counties made up 72.5 percent of total U.S. employment.

The average weekly wage in Cumberland County increased 9.3 percent to \$937 from the third quarter of 2015 to the third quarter of 2016. (See [table 1.](#)) Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 5.4 percent over the year to \$1,027.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 15 counties in Maine with employment below 75,000. All of these smaller counties had average weekly wages below the national average (See [table 2.](#))

Large County Wage Changes

The 9.3-percent wage gain in Cumberland County ranked 12th among the 344 largest U.S. counties.

Nationwide, Clark, Nev., had the largest percentage increase in average weekly wages with a gain of 12.2 percent in the third quarter of 2016. Across the country, 339 large counties experienced over-the-year increases in average weekly wages.

Of the 344 largest U.S. counties, 5 experienced decreases in average weekly wages. Rockland, N.Y., had the largest percentage decrease in average weekly wages, with a loss of 14.9 percent. Lafayette, La., had the second largest wage decline (-3.4 percent), followed by Benton, Ark. (-2.0 percent), Lake, Ill. (-0.9 percent), and Midland, Texas (-0.3 percent).

Large County Average Weekly Wages

Cumberland County's average weekly wage of \$937 placed 179th in the national ranking in the third quarter of 2016. Among the 242 large U.S. counties with average weekly wages below the national average, Horry, S.C. (\$632) reported the lowest wage, followed by the Texas counties of Cameron (\$636), Hidalgo (\$654), and Webb (\$680).

Nationally, average weekly wages were greater than the national average (\$1,027) in 102 of the largest U.S. counties. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position among the highest-paid large counties with an average weekly wage of \$2,260. San Mateo, Calif., was second with an average weekly wage of \$2,098, followed by San Francisco, Calif. (\$1,829) and New York, N.Y. (\$1,879).

Average Weekly Wages in Maine's Smaller Counties

All 15 counties in Maine with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$1,027. Sagadahoc reported the highest average weekly wage of the small counties in the state at \$899 per week. Piscataquis (\$620) and Lincoln (\$654) reported the lowest weekly wages.

When all 16 counties in Maine were considered, all had weekly wages that were lower than the national average. One reported wages of \$649 or less, eight had wages from \$650 to \$749, five had wages from \$750 to \$849, and two had wages of \$850 or more. (See [chart 1](#).) The two higher-paid counties were located along the state's southern Atlantic coastline.

Additional Statistics and other Information

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in [table 3](#). For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the Technical Note or visit www.bls.gov/cew.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online, features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2015 edition of this publication, which was published in September 2016, contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2016 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online 2015* are now available online at <https://www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultncur.htm>. The 2016 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2017.

The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2017 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 7, 2017.

Technical Note

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The 9.8 million employer reports cover 142.9 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation,

and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/cew/; however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800)-877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the largest county in Maine, third quarter 2016

Area	Employment			Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	September 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2015-16 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, third quarter 2015-16 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	142,940.5	1.7	--	\$1,027	--	5.4	--
Maine.....	616.2	0.9	--	825	45	5.9	18
Cumberland, Maine	180.4	1.4	203	937	179	9.3	12

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(3) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Maine, third quarter 2016

Area	Employment September 2016	Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾
United States ⁽²⁾	142,940,452	\$1,027
Maine.....	616,192	825
Androscoggin	49,611	782
Aroostook	27,768	701
Cumberland	180,449	937
Franklin.....	10,343	685
Hancock	24,703	720
Kennebec	60,395	795
Knox	18,279	716
Lincoln	11,931	654
Oxford.....	16,487	692
Penobscot	70,094	779
Piscataquis	5,679	620
Sagadahoc	16,034	899
Somerset	17,168	766
Waldo	11,801	711
Washington.....	10,306	701
York	73,783	812
Footnotes:		

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

NOTE: Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2016

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	September 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2015-16	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2015-16	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	142,940.5	1.7	\$1,027	--	5.4	--
Alabama	1,923.8	1.5	870	36	4.9	38
Alaska	337.4	-2.6	1,055	12	1.2	49
Arizona	2,695.5	3.1	950	24	6.9	5
Arkansas	1,205.4	1.0	794	48	5.2	32
California	16,871.1	2.4	1,210	4	6.7	8
Colorado	2,576.5	2.6	1,062	10	5.6	23
Connecticut	1,674.2	0.3	1,204	5	5.0	34
Delaware	440.7	0.8	1,022	16	5.6	23
District of Columbia	759.2	1.7	1,728	1	3.8	45
Florida	8,320.2	3.7	905	29	6.2	14
Georgia	4,290.4	2.9	969	21	5.9	18
Hawaii	648.4	1.8	956	23	6.7	8
Idaho	703.7	3.5	782	50	6.3	12
Illinois	5,933.6	0.6	1,062	10	4.4	40
Indiana	3,025.9	1.8	866	37	5.9	18
Iowa	1,548.6	0.8	873	35	6.2	14
Kansas	1,377.2	0.5	857	39	5.9	18
Kentucky	1,880.2	1.5	857	39	6.5	10
Louisiana	1,908.8	-0.9	883	32	2.9	48
Maine	616.2	0.9	825	45	5.9	18
Maryland	2,648.1	1.4	1,124	8	5.3	30
Massachusetts	3,522.9	2.0	1,277	2	6.8	7
Michigan	4,292.2	2.1	976	19	5.9	18
Minnesota	2,849.5	1.6	1,053	13	6.4	11
Mississippi	1,126.9	0.7	739	51	4.7	39
Missouri	2,782.1	1.6	888	30	5.0	34
Montana	464.5	1.5	792	49	4.3	41
Nebraska	973.9	0.9	857	39	5.5	26
Nevada	1,300.7	3.8	949	25	10.1	1
New Hampshire	655.0	1.8	1,027	15	7.9	2
New Jersey	4,000.0	1.8	1,173	7	5.0	34
New Mexico	811.5	0.2	830	44	4.0	43
New York	9,216.6	1.6	1,222	3	3.5	46
North Carolina	4,290.3	2.3	909	28	5.3	30
North Dakota	423.2	-3.4	964	22	0.7	50
Ohio	5,347.3	1.1	924	26	5.4	27
Oklahoma	1,578.7	-1.3	854	42	3.5	46
Oregon	1,866.5	2.6	970	20	5.2	32
Pennsylvania	5,776.7	1.0	1,013	17	5.4	27
Rhode Island	481.1	0.8	990	18	7.6	3
South Carolina	2,008.6	2.5	832	43	5.6	23
South Dakota	424.2	1.1	809	47	7.0	4
Tennessee	2,918.8	2.5	912	27	5.4	27
Texas	11,830.7	1.3	1,042	14	4.3	41
Utah	1,407.4	3.8	881	33	6.3	12
Vermont	309.9	0.5	880	34	6.2	14
Virginia	3,801.0	1.0	1,063	9	5.0	34
Washington	3,278.9	3.0	1,188	6	6.9	5
West Virginia	691.5	-1.6	816	46	3.9	44
Wisconsin	2,850.1	1.0	885	31	6.2	14
Wyoming	274.8	-4.7	865	38	0.0	51
Puerto Rico	888.2	-0.4	524	(3)	2.3	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2016 - Continued

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	September 2016 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2015-16	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2015-16	National ranking by percent change
Virgin Islands	37.4	1.4	778	(3)	5.9	(3)

Footnotes:

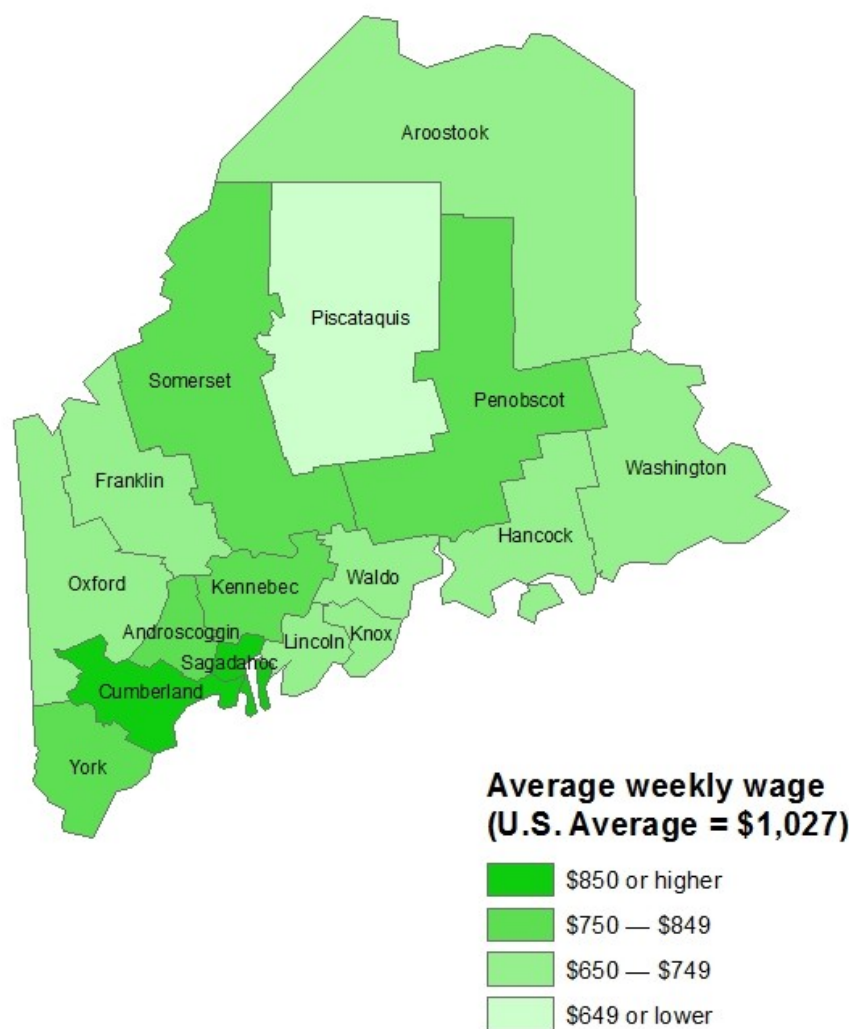
(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages by county in Maine, third quarter 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.